

What is claimed is:

1. A process for cleaning , comprising:

heating and pressuring a cleaning sheet with a heating and pressuring means, the cleaning sheet being fed through an image forming apparatus,

such that stains are removed, wherein

the heating and pressuring means is at least one of a fixing belt and a fixing roller; and

the cleaning sheet has a support and a layer containing a thermoplastic resin over the support, the cleaning sheet satisfying at least one of the following formulae:

$$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_2 \text{ (cm)} \text{ and}$$

$$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_3 \text{ (cm)}$$

wherein L_1 is a length of the cleaning sheet in a direction of feeding the cleaning sheet, L_2 a perimeter of the fixing roller, and L_3 a perimeter of the fixing belt.

2. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaning sheet is a same sheet as an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet which is used for the image forming apparatus.

3. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein L_1 is larger than one of L_2 and L_3 by from 0.5 cm to 15 cm.

4. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, further satisfying at least one of the following formulae:

$$L_2 \text{ (cm)} > L_4 \text{ (cm)} \text{ and}$$

$$L_3 \text{ (cm)} > L_4 \text{ (cm)}$$

wherein L_2 and L_3 are the same as in Claim 1, and L_4 represents a length of a smallest electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in a direction of feeding the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet.

5. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein the stains comprise a thermoplastic resin which is adhered on the heating and pressuring means after fixing.

6. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaning sheet is in a form of a roll which is used after being cut so as to satisfy at least one of the following formulae:

$$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_2 \text{ (cm)} \text{ and}$$

$$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_3 \text{ (cm)}.$$

7. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein a size of the cleaning sheet is selected from the group consisting of L-size, A6-size, A4-size, B4-size, A3-size, B5-size, postcard-size, and business card-size.

8. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein the heating and pressuring means is a belt-fixing smoothing device which includes:

- a fixing roller;
- a fixing belt; and
- a cooling device.

9. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein a fixing temperature at which toner is fixed on an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in the image forming apparatus differs from a temperature during cleaning at a portion of the image forming apparatus where fixing is conducted.

10. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein a transport speed when toner is fixed on an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in the image forming apparatus differs from a transport speed during cleaning at the portion of the image forming apparatus where fixing is conducted.

11. A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, wherein the fixing belt comprises:

- a heat resistant support film; and
- a releasing layer formed over the support film.

12. A process for cleaning according to Claim 11, wherein the releasing layer is one of a layer of fluorocarbon siloxane rubber and layers comprising a layer of silicone rubber and a layer of fluorocarbon siloxane rubber disposed in this sequence.

13. A process for cleaning according to Claim 12, wherein the fluorocarbon siloxane rubber comprises a main chain which includes at least one of a perfluoroalkyl ether group and a perfluoroalkyl group.

14. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a heating and pressuring means which fixes toner on an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet which has a support and a toner image-receiving layer containing a thermoplastic resin on the support; and

a cleaning sheet for removing stains adhered on the heating and pressuring means,

wherein

the heating and pressuring is at least one of a fixing belt and a fixing roller; and

the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet may be used as the cleaning sheet satisfying at least one of the following formulae:

$$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_2 \text{ (cm)} \text{ and}$$

$$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_3 \text{ (cm)}$$

wherein L1 is a length of the cleaning sheet in a direction of feeding the cleaning sheet, L2 a perimeter of the fixing roller, and L3 a perimeter of the fixing belt.

15. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein L1 is larger than one of L2 and L3 by from 0.5 cm to 15 cm.

16. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, further satisfying at least one of the following formulae:

$$L2 \text{ (cm)} > L4 \text{ (cm)} \text{ and}$$

$$L3 \text{ (cm)} > L4 \text{ (cm)}$$

wherein L2 and L3 are the same as in Claim 14, and L4 represents a length of a smallest electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in a direction of feeding the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet.

17. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the heating and pressuring means is a belt-fixing smoothing device which includes:

a fixing roller;

a fixing belt; and

a cooling device.

18. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the cleaning sheet is in a form of a roll.

19. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising a sheet cutting means which cuts the roll of cleaning sheet such that a sheet cut off from the roll satisfies at least one of the following formulae:

$$\underline{L1 \text{ (cm)} > L2 \text{ (cm)}}$$
 and

$$L1 \text{ (cm)} > L3 \text{ (cm)}.$$